



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 157

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2011

No. 188

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 8, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CANDICE S. MILLER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Once again we come to You to ask wisdom, patience, peace, and understanding for the Members of this people's House.

Give them the generosity of heart, and the courage of true leadership, to work toward a common solution to the many issues facing our Nation. This might call for compromise, even sacrifice on both sides. As true statesmen and -women, may they find the fortitude to make judgments to benefit all Americans in their time of need.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote

on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

GONE ROGUE

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the Justice Department appears to have gone rogue. Instead of enforcing the law, they seem to be recklessly encouraging violations of law.

The Justice Department, with the aid of the ATF, apparently facilitated the smuggling of over 2,000 weapons to the drug cartels south of the border—the national enemy of Mexico. Those weapons were used to kill at least 200 Mexican nationals and two U.S. law enforcement agents.

Who is responsible for this conduct? The Attorney General says he was unaware of Fast and Furious. He claims he either didn't get the memo or he didn't read it. That's a lame excuse. The Attorney General is the chief lawyer and law enforcement officer in the country. If people under him violated U.S. or international law, they need to be held accountable, even if it means somebody goes to jail.

We need an independent special counsel to investigate the Justice Department and the ATF. The Department of Justice cannot be trusted to investigate themselves because the agency has lost credibility. Even Washington insiders responsible for Fast and Furious cannot hide from the long arm of American justice because justice is what we do in this country.

And that's just the way it is.

CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU

(Mr. MILLER of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Wall Street may be in disrepute with most Americans, but their power here, their political power in Congress, is undiminished.

Americans strongly support a consumer watchdog, the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, but the CFPB has become Republicans' new least favorite agency, which greatly pleases their friends on Wall Street.

Months ago, Republicans in the other body announced that they would block the confirmation of the first Director

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H8265

of the new agency, whether the nominee was Elizabeth Warren or anyone else, unless Congress stripped the agency of its independence and of the powers to protect consumers from the abuses that were rampant in the last decade.

In the next day or two, the other body will vote on the confirmation of Richard Cordray to head the CFPB. If the vote goes as expected, Republicans will abuse their constitutional confirmation powers to hobble the new agency. They don't want Elizabeth Warren. They don't want Richard Cordray. They don't want anyone because they don't want the agency, and they don't want the agency because they don't want to protect consumers.

Republicans are willing to leave consumers vulnerable again to predatory lending practices. They're willing to leave the economy vulnerable again to another financial crisis to please their friends on Wall Street.

OVERREGULATING DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS ENDANGERS AMERICANS' JOBS AND HEALTH

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my concern over another example of rampant government regulation.

For 17 years, the Food and Drug Administration has sought to ignore congressional intent and create a vast new regulatory regime for dietary supplements. Millions of Americans, including many of my constituents and my family, rely on dietary supplements as part of their everyday health maintenance routine. Moreover, they play an important role in ensuring that people take individual responsibility for preventative health care. We all can agree that the FDA should not limit Americans' access to dietary supplements.

In January President Obama issued an Executive order to ensure that the FDA's new rules will not limit access. Last week, the comment period on the FDA's draft guidance closed. Now that they've heard from the public, and now that I'm sure they've heard from countless Americans who share my concern, I urge them to go back to the drawing board and ensure that they do not limit Americans' access to dietary supplements.

TAX BREAKS FOR RACING INTERESTS—NO ACTION ON PAYROLL TAX CUT AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE EXTENSION

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, at a recent horse sale in Kentucky, Breeder's Cup winner Royal Delta sold for \$8.5 million as part of the sale of the late Saudi Prince Saud bin Khalid's

farm. Three of the Saudi's other horses also sold for seven figures. A total of 22 horses were sold that day for \$1 million or more, compared with only eight sold in 2010.

Every millionaire who purchased these horses benefited from a Republican-sponsored taxpayer subsidy written into the last 2008 farm bill. It allows them to recover the cost of the horse. Even as they call for more budget cuts, Republicans used that bill to transfer wealth—nearly \$500 million—from the pockets of ordinary taxpayers to the coffers of wealthy racing interests. This is just one example of how Republicans will go to absurd lengths to support the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans while turning their backs on the middle class and working families.

Now they refuse to take up a payroll tax cut extension and expansion that would mean \$1,500 for 160 million people while they protect the tax breaks for 350,000 millionaires. They refuse to extend unemployment insurance to save 200,000 jobs.

Our Nation deserves better leadership than this. Republicans need to stop giving out handouts to millionaire racing horse owners and start addressing the needs of the vast majority of American families.

□ 0910

LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL CENTURY OF SERVICE COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

(Mr. ALTMIRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Lions Club International Century of Service Commemorative Coin Act. This legislation commemorates the Lions Club's 2017 Centennial, at no cost to the taxpayer, as the cost will be paid for by sales to the public.

As former president and zone chairman of my local Lions Club in Allegheny County in Pennsylvania, I know firsthand the great work done by Lions Club International, which now has 1.3 million members and chapters spanning every corner of the globe.

The Lions Clubs focus on the five goals of preserving sight, combating disability, promoting health, serving youth, and disaster relief, for which Lions Club donated over \$50 million in relief funds to Japan, Haiti, and most recently to our own southern States.

I commend the great work carried out by Lions Club International, and look forward to helping them commemorate their 2017 centennial year.

SAFEGUARDING SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

(Mr. REYES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the millions of peo-

ple in this country, including the 55 million seniors, disabled workers, widows, and children currently receiving Social Security benefits that have their Social Security unnecessarily targeted as part of the debt reduction talks. Now, more than ever, we cannot jeopardize earned benefits of seniors who have worked so hard over their lifetime to retire with dignity. Every senior deserves dignity in their retirement. Every senior, no exceptions.

For almost two-thirds of America's seniors, Social Security is the primary source of retirement income. Social Security is also a lifeline for workers who became disabled and for families who have lost a breadwinner. In the 16th District of Texas that I represent, over 98,000 El Pasoans receive Social Security benefits. They depend on these benefits to buy groceries, pay utility bills, and fill their gas tanks.

As their Representative, I want to ensure that we uphold the decades-old promise to the American worker, in return for their years of hard work and contributions, that we ensure dignity in retirement, assistance of the disabled, and support for their surviving children.

GIVE SOMETHING BACK THIS SEASON

(Mr. BARROW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARROW. Madam Speaker, I rise to encourage my colleagues to give a little something back this season to those who give so much.

Every year we accumulate thousands of frequent flyer miles as we travel between our districts and Washington, DC. For the past several years, I've donated my frequent flyer miles to the Fisher House's Hero Miles Program, which provides free airline tickets to American soldiers and their families, and to the Children's Miracle Network, a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving and improving the lives of children.

Most of my frequent flyer miles this year came from congressional travel, and I don't think it's right to use them for myself. What I do know is that there is no better way for us to use our frequent flyer miles than to help troops and their families see each other, or to help sick kids get well.

I encourage each of my colleagues to join me and donate the frequent flyer miles you receive for government-funded congressional travel to programs like the Fisher House and the Children's Miracle Network, and to do it this holiday season.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested: